

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 DHA-02

IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /084 W

-----082121Z 121152 /75

O P 082030Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2096

AMCONSUL RECIFE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS OVIP SHUM BR (CARTER, ROSALYNN)

REF: A. BRASILIA 4592 B. BRASILIA 4567 C. BRASILIA 4523 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. DURING MRS. CARTER'S CALL AT EMBASSY JUNE 6, A STUDENT HANDED AMBASSADOR TODMAN AN "OPEN LETTER" FOR MRS. CARTER FROM STRIKING STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA, DESCRIBING THEIR SITUATION AND GENERAL PLIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL. INCIDENT WAS NOTED IN LOCAL PRESS, PROMPTING EXPRESSION OF SHOCK AND REGRET FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, AS WELL AS TWO POINTED QUESTIONS FOR MRS. CARTER AT NEWS CONFERENCE JUNE 7. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING ROSALYNN CARTER'S CALL AT THE EMBASSY THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6, A STUDENT MANAGED UNPERCEIVED TO DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "OPEN LETTER" ADDRESSED TO MRS. CARTER FROM THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA (UNB), WHO ARE IN MIDST OF INCREASINGLY BITTER AND POLITICIZED STRIKE AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

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3. LETTER OBSERVED THAT MRS. CARTER'S TRIP WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE FOR FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND PRESENTED ITSELF AS EFFORT TO BRING TO HER ATTENTION CERTAIN SPECIFIC FACTS IN THAT REGARD. IT DESCRIBED EVOLUTION OF STRIKE, BEGINNING WITH SUSPENSION BY UNIVERSITY RECTOR OF 16 STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED LOCALLY IN THE COUNTRYWIDE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OF MAY 19, AND

INVOLVING MOST RECENTLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TROOP CORDON AROUND CAMPUS, SUSPENSION OF CLASSES FOR THE THREE DAYS OF MRS. CARTER'S VISIT, AND THE ARREST OF FIVE STUDENTS. LETTER CITED THESE INCIDENTS AS SYMPTOMATIC OF ATMOSPHERE OF OPPRESSION UNDER A REGIME WHICH HAS BROUGHT STABILITY "THOUGHT BENEFICIAL TO AMERICAN INTERESTS" BUT AT COST OF BASIC FREEDOMS. "ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE ARE FEARS THAT RULE OUR LIVES," CONCLUDES LETTER. "WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY TOWARD BRAZIL WILL BE GUIDED BY HIS SUPPORT OF THOSE RIGHTS TO WHICH ALL HUMAN BEINGS, EVERYWHERE, ARE ENTITLED."

4. DELIVERY OF LETTER WAS PROMINENTLY NOTED IN MAJOR PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT, JUNE 7, WITH PAPERS CARRYING DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS FOR FULL TEXT OF LETTER. (PORTUGUESE VERSIONS HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO REPORTERS.)

5. ITAMARATY DECLINED COMMENT ON INCIDENT. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY CAMARGO, ON BEING INFORMED EARLIER IN AFTERNOON OF POSSIBILITY THAT LETTER WOULD BE PRESENTED, EXPRESSED INCREDULITY THAT ONE OF "DEAREST BRAZILIAN TRADITIONS", THAT OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS INTERNALLY, WOULD BE BROKEN. SHOULD THIS COME TO PASS, HE CONTINUED, HE COULD ONLY LAMENT THAT THE OLD TRADITIONS OF PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM HAD BEEN VIOLATED "BY PERSONS WHO DO NOT LOVE BRAZIL." WHEN DELIVERY OF LETTER WAS CONFIRMED LATER THAT DAY, CAMARGO LIMITED HIMSELF TO EXPRESSION OF "PROFOUND SHOCK."

6. PRESS ALSO CLAIMED THAT STUDENT SITUATION CAME UP IN CONVERSATIONS DURING RECEPTION MONDAY NIGHT (JUNE 6) BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TODMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND (SEPARATELY) ARENA PRESIDENT PEREIRA AND MDB PRESIDENT GUIMARAES, AS WELL AS BETWEEN NSC REP PASTOR AND THE UNIVERSITY RECTOR.

7. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ON AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6, MRS. CARTER RECIVED TWO QUESTIONS RELATED TO STUDENTS. ASKED ABOUT THE LETTER AND WHAT VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SHE WOULD TAKE BACK WITH HER, MRS. CARTER SAID SHE HAD GLANCED AT IT BRIEFLY, THOUGH NOT YET IN DETAIL, WOULD TAKE IT BACK TO THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY, AND WAS SURE HE WOULD APPRECIATE THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. ASKED LATER WHETHER THIS RESPONSE WAS A "COP OUT" IN THE FACE OF "APPARENT ABUSES RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES", MRS. CARTER ANSWERED THAT THE QUESTIONER PRESUMED "A DETERMINATION THAT I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE," AND CITED HER CLEAR STATEMENT OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN MEETINGS WITH SILVEIRA AND GEISEL, AS EVIDEN THAT SHE IS NOT AVOIDING THE ISSUE.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2238711
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040908
Subject: ARREST
TAGS: OVIP, SHUM, BR, US, (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
To: STATE RECIFE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d10f3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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